

# Safety Flash

## Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 9/8/2021

### The Incident

While unloading and staging plastic, 55 gallon drums an associate inadvertently lowered the forks of an industrial forklift onto another associate's right hand, pinching it between the top of a drum and the bottom of the fork.

### The Causes

- The forklift operator was distracted by another worker and unintentionally lowered the forks.
- The drums were not palletized when loaded in the field. This forced the associates unloading to utilize a barrel lifting device to safely lift and move the barrels.
- The associate assisting had his hands in the line of fire.
- The unloading and staging was an extra/unplanned task for the day.

### Prevent It

- Take 2 to update STAC for new tasks.
- Prepare loads properly so they can be handled safely.
- Be aware of hand placement during all work activities. Stay out of the line of fire.

### Action Plan

- All fabrication shop and warehouse associates will be re-trained on utilizing STAC effectively.
- Improved communication between fabrication shop/warehouse with the field on coordinating deliveries so each can be prepared.
- Provide training on how to prepare loads for transit to primary drivers of delivery vehicles.

### Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.